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REMARKS

Claims 1-29 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In regard to the Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-6, 23-27 and 29 under 35 USC § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-6, 23-27 and 29 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fahringer. Applicants disagree.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the following element of claims 1 and 23:

a pressure body movably disposed in the housing such that, in operation, a first side of the pressure body is exposed to the pressure medium while a second side is exposed to a reference force ...

The above element of claims 1 and 23 is not taught by Fahringer. The Examiner's attention is directed to the Figure of Fahringer, from which it will be apparent that the valve 7 of Fahringer is not exposed to the reference pressure P_{soil} . The reference pressure P_{soil} of Fahringer is a quantity calculated by the device 10 for the purpose of enabling the regulating device 11 to perform a comparison, and is not a physical pressure. Therefore, Fahringer does not teach a pressure body or any physical component exposed to a reference pressure or a reference force. By extension, Fahringer does not teach or motivate a pressure body having a first side exposed to the pressure medium while a second side is exposed to a reference force.

Therefore, at least one element of claim 1 is not taught by Fahringer, and the Examiner is requested to withdraw his rejection of claim 1 and claims 2 and 4-6 depending therefrom.

In addition, at least one element of claim 23 is not taught by Fahringer, and the Examiner is requested to withdraw his rejection of claim 23 and claims 24-27 and 29 depending therefrom.

In regard to the Rejection of Claim 3 under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fahringer. Applicants disagree.

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The Examiner's attention is directed to the following element of claim 1, from which claim 3 depends:

a pressure body movably disposed in the housing such that, in operation, a first side of the pressure body is exposed to the pressure medium while a second side is exposed to a reference force ...

As argued above with respect to claim 1, the above element of claim 1 is not taught by Fahringer. In addition, the above element of claim 1 would not be an obvious design choice, because there is no motivation in Fahringer to generate a physical pressure corresponding to P_{pull} , or to expose a pressure body thereto. Therefore, at least one element of claim 1 is not taught or motivated by Fahringer, and the Examiner is requested to withdraw his rejection of claim 3 depending therefrom.

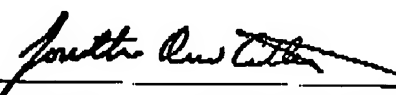
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In view of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the currently pending claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in a better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Jonathan D. Cutler, Reg. No. 40,576
OSLER, HOSKIN & HARCOURT LLP
Attorneys for the Applicant

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OSLER, HOSKIN & HARCOURT LLP
1000 de la Gauchetière St. West
Suite 2100
Montréal, Québec H3B 4W5
Canada

Tel. (514) 904-5624
Fax. (514) 904-8101

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